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PAGE 01            BUENOS  05835  012129Z  
ACTION SCT-03

INFO LOG-00    ACDA-17    ACDE-00    AMAD-01    ARA-01    CIAE-00    OASY-00  
DODE-00    DS-00    FBIE-00    TEDE-00    INR-00    ADS-00    NSAE-00  
SSO-00    SS-00    ASDS-01    DSCL-00    /023W  
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O 012132Z SEP 94

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1798

RELEASED IN FULL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 005835

INFO AMEMBASSIES MONTEVIDEO, SANTIAGO, ASUNCION  
AND BRASILIA

DEPT FOR S/CT AMBASSADOR WILCOX, DS - ASST  
SECRETARY QUAINTON, DS/DSS, DS/I

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, AR  
SUBJECT: PREMATURE RELEASE OF STATE DEPARTMENT  
REPORT ON AMIA BOMBING

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT

2. BUENOS AIRES CENTER-LEFT DAILY "PAGINA 12"  
GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE AUGUST 31 TO DIPLOMATIC  
SECURITY'S REPORT ON THE JULY 18 BOMBING OF  
ARGENTINA'S JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA). IN  
FACT, THE NEWSPAPER PRINTED THE FIRST PAGES OF THE  
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PAGE 02            BUENOS  05835  012129Z  
UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF THE REPORT FOR ALL OF  
ARGENTINA TO READ.

3. THE PURVEYOR OF THIS REPORT IS REPORTEDLY MR.  
STEVEN EMERSON. HE IS, AS POST UNDERSTANDS, A  
FORMER CNN REPORTER WHO IS CURRENTLY WRITING A  
BOOK ON TERRORISM. THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA HAS  
PORTRAYED HIM AS A TERRORISM ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT  
CLINTON AND ADVISOR ON TERRORISM TO BOTH THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON.

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4. NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY RECEIVED A COPY OF ANY VERSION OF THE REPORT. THIS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINES THIS MISSION'S CREDIBILITY WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES REGARDING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION OF THE ATTACK. WEEKS AGO, WE ASSURED INVESTIGATING JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO AND THE CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE THAT THEY WOULD BE THE FIRST ARGENTINES TO RECEIVE THIS REPORT. WE FIRST READ IN THE PRESS THAT GALEANO HAS IT, BUT FROM MR. EMERSON'S HAND. CLEARLY, WE HAVE NOT KEPT OUR WORD. WE REQUEST A COPY OF THE REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SOME EXPLANATION OF HOW THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

5. COMMENT. OUR ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE AMIA BOMBING WAS OFFERED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN LETTERS TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 05835 012129Z  
PRESIDENT MENEM AND PERSONALLY REINFORCED BY UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF IN HIS MEETING WITH MENEM. THE U.S. INVESTIGATIVE TEAM, INVITED BY THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, WAS GIVEN PRIVILEGED ACCESS TO THE BOMB SITE AND DETAILS OF THE ARGENTINE INVESTIGATION. IT IS ACCUTELY EMBARRASSING TO HAVE THE CONCLUSIONS FROM A U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORT APPEAR IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER BEFORE THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN MADE PRIVY TO THEM. OUR FAILURE TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES IS AT BEST HIGHLY UNPROFESSIONAL.

CHEEK

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